



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

One Government Center
Suite 1900
Toledo, Ohio 43604
phone 419-245-1198
fax 419-245-1058

toledo.oh.gov

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On June 15, 2000, Toledo City Council passed the "Living Wage" Ordinance (ORD. #577-00) which requires that the city of Toledo, and certain employers doing business with the City, to pay employees working on City-funded contracts at least 110% above the Federal Poverty Level (for a family of four (4)) with a minimum level of health insurance or 130% above the Federal Poverty Level when health insurance is not made available. These rates are adjusted annually according to the updated Federal Poverty Level in the Federal Register.

Based upon the current guidelines, the 2023 living wage rate is \$15.87 per hour with a minimum level of health insurance (*not more than 15% of the employees' monthly wages*) and \$18.75 per hour when health insurance is not provided. The 2023 guidelines are in effect as of January 17, 2023.

There are 10 exemptions to the Living Wage Ordinance. The 10 exemptions were developed to help ensure that companies were not unfairly penalized and to ensure that economic development efforts were not unnecessarily impeded. The exemptions are:

1. Contractors or subcontractors with fewer than 25 employees;
2. Financial assistance recipients with fewer than 50 employees;
3. Recipients of Community Development Block Grant funding;
4. Seasonal employees;
5. Interns;
6. Non-profit organizations whose sole purpose is to provide cultural, social or educational services;
7. Organizations whose primary mission is to provide job readiness and training services, and whose sole purpose of requesting funding is to provide those services;
8. Businesses that pay their employees the Ohio Prevailing Wage, or pay their employees pursuant to the Davis Bacon Act;
9. Volunteers, and;
10. Contractors, subcontractors or employees of financial assistance recipients working on a project that the Mayor has determined are crucial to the economic development of the City.

Many contractors fall under one or more of the 10 exemptions contained in the Living Wage Ord. # 577-00, with the majority of those that are exempt falling into one of three categories:

1. Fewer than 25 employees;
2. Payment of Prevailing Wage rates;
3. Contracts that are under the \$10,000.00 Living Wage threshold.

The following is the link to the 2023 Federal Poverty Rates and Guidelines:

<https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>